

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 199832

64

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RSHERMAN:SCS

APPROVED BY AF/S:FGWISNER

----- 093149

P R 120025Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS STATE 199832

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE -- NEWS ARTICLE
AND PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTERS NEWS ITEM IN NEW YORK TIMES,
AUGUST 11, ENTITLED "RHODESIA SAYS IT ATTACKED REBEL SITE
IN MOZAMBIQUE -- 300 GUERRILLAS REPORTED SLAIN IN A RAID
ACROSS BORDER ON SUNDAY." BEGIN TEXT:

1. SALISBURY, RHODESIA, AUG. 10 -- RHODESIAN FORCES HAVE
CROSSED INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND KILLED MORE THAN 300 BLACK
NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS AT A BASE CAMP USED FOR LAUNCHING
ATTACKS ON RHODESIA, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.
2. THE STATEMENT SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GUERRILLAS;
30 MOZAMBICAN SOLDIERS AND 10 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN
SUNDAY'S RAID; STAGED ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE BORDER
TOWN OF UMTALI, IN RETALIATION FOR "UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION"
BY MOZAMBIQUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 199832

3. IT WAS THE FIRST CONFIRMED INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE SINCE PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT

HE HAD AUTHORIZED TROOPS TO MOVE OVER THE FRONTIER IN HOT PURSUIT IF NECESSARY.

4. RHODESIAN TROOPS SUFFERED ONLY SLIGHT WOUNDS, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT.

5. INFORMED SOURCES SAID THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS A TACIT ADMISSION THAT THE RAID WAS IN RETALIATION FOR A MORTAR BOMB ATTACK SUNDAY ON A RHODESIAN ARMY BASE IN WHICH FOUR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.

6. CHAMPAGNE CORKS POPPED IN SALISBURY BARS TONIGHT AS WHITE RHODESIANS CELEBRATED THE RAID. SOME REVELLERS WERE CALLING IT "RHODESIA'S ENTEBBE," AN ALLUSION TO THE ISRAEL RESCUE OF HIJACKED HOSTAGES AT UGANDA'S MAIN AIRPORT LAST MONTH.

7. RHODESIANS IN FARMING AREAS ALONG THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER HAVE LONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO STRIKE BACK AT GUERRILLA BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE.

8. BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AFTER THE MOST EXTREME PROVOCATION, WARNING THAT VIOLENT INTERNATIONAL REACTION WOULD RESULT.

9. THE DEATH TOLL IN THE MOZAMBIQUE OPERATION APPEARED TO BE THE HEAVIEST IN ANY SINGLE INCIDENT SINCE GUERRILLAS LAUNCHED THEIR WAR IN DECEMBER 1972 TO OVERTHROW THE WHITE REGIME.

10. RHODESIAN COMMUNIQUE UP TO YESTERDAY HAD LISTED 542 GUERRILLAS KILLED THIS YEAR AND A TOTAL OF 1,155 SINCE THE WAR BEGAN. RHODESIA'S LOSSES SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS 61.

11. BEFORE TODAY'S DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENT, A RHODESIAN STATEMENT SAID THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD ATTACKED A UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 199832

"TERRORIST COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND BASE CAMP IN MOZAMBIQUE."

12. THE STATEMENT DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE RHODESIAN AIR FORCE HAD BEEN USED. IT REPORTED THAT THE RHODESIAN RAIDERS SUFFERED NO LOSSES, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE "A FEW MINOR INJURIES."

13. DURING THE OPERATION THE RHODESIANS DESTROYED A "ROAD BLOCK" PRESUMABLY A BORDER POST, AND A BRIDGE, THE STATEMENT SAID.

14. IT SAID THE BASE CAMP HAD BEEN ATTACKED ON IRREPUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT GUERRILLAS IN IT WERE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF OPERATIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

15. "IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY RESTRAINING INFLUENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, RHODESIA HAS HAD NO OPTION BUT TO STRIKE AT CENTERS OF ORGANIZED TERRORISM ON HER BORDERS IN THE INTERESTS OF HER OWN SELF-PRESERVATION," THE STATEMENT SAID. END TEXT.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SPOKESMEN TO USE IF QUERIED BY PRESS ON THIS ARTICLE: BEGIN TEXT.

1. QUESTION: THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY MILITARY RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE RESULTING IN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES AMONG RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS, MOZAMBIKAN FORCES AND CIVILIANS. WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THESE RAIDS?

2. ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASES ON THE FACTS OF THE RAID AS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. WE DEPLORE THE ATTACK AND DEEPLY REGRET THE RESULTANT LOSS OF LIFE. THE RESULTS OF THIS ACT BY RHODESIAN FORCES ONCE AGAIN UNDERLINE OUR BELIEF THAT A RAPID, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE RHODESIAN SITUATION MUST BE EFFECTED. A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH BRINGS MAJORITY RULE AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY IN RHODESIA IS THE BEST WAY TO REMOVE THE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 199832

3. TOWARD THAT END THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTING ITS BEST EFFORTS. END TEXT.

KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE199832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSHERMAN:SCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-1109
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760860/aaaacaat.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE -- NEWS ARTICLE AND PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTERS NEWS ITEM IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, RH, MZ
To: MAPUTO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006